4.0 Cumulative Projects Description

In Section 15355 of the CEQA guidelines, a "cumulative impact" is defined as two or more individual effects that, when considered together, are either considerable or compound other environmental impacts.

A typical "project specific" cumulative analysis looks at the changes in the environment that result from the incremental impact of development of a proposed project and other reasonably foreseeable projects that have not been included in the environmental setting. For example, the traffic impacts of two projects in close proximity may prove to be insignificant when analyzed separately, but could be significant when the impacts of the projects are analyzed together. While these projects may be unrelated, their combined (i.e., cumulative) impacts are significant. These projects could include:

A) funded public works projects;
B) reasonably foreseeable public works projects; and
C) approved/expected to be approved private development projects.

This chapter provides only a description of the cumulative projects. The impacts associated with these projects are discussed in Section 5.0, Analysis of Environmental Issues.

4.1 Cumulative Development Projects

Given the large lead time for the NWP, with construction expected to begin in 2005, very few projects fall into the categories listed above. However, several projects have been identified where construction would occur prior to initiation of NWP pipeline and facility construction. In these cases, the project schedules wouldn't coincide, but construction of the NWP would result in a prolonged impact to an area, or trenching through recently repaved streets. In these cases, construction of the NWP would be accelerated for these pipeline segments to accommodate a single construction event.

The proposed project consists of a pipeline corridor approximately 64 miles long and associated water conveyance and treatment facilities (See Section 2.0, Project Description). The construction period is assumed to extend from 2006 to 2009, with deliveries from the NWP available by mid 2009. No additional details are available on construction phasing for the various pipeline reaches; however, at this early stage in project development, NWP construction activities could potentially be scheduled to either avoid or take advantage of other major projects.

A list of all approved, pending development projects located in the study area for the proposed project was assembled using information from the San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, CalTrans, and cities located along the pipeline route. Table 4.1 provides a list of projects. The goal was to identify projects which were to be constructed in the vicinity of the proposed project.

Table 4.1 Cumulative Projects

	Project Name	Status	Schedule	Brief Description
San Luis Obispo County Projects				
1	Trout Creek Pipe Replacement (Atascadero)	Approved	2003	Water pipe replacement
2	Santa Margarita F Street Pipe Replacement	Approved	2003	Replacement of water pipe.
3	San Marcos Road (Paso Robles)	Approved	2004	Road surface overlay
4	Wellsona Road (Paso Robles)	Approved	2006	Road surface overlay
5	North River Road (Paso Robles)	Approved	2004	Road surface overlay
6	North River Road (Paso Robles)	Approved	2005	Bridge replacement
7	South River Road (Paso Robles)	Approved	2006	Road surface overlay
8	El Pomar Drive (Templeton)	Approved	2004	Road surface overlay
9	Templeton Road (Templeton)	Approved	2002–2007	Realign northern 1.5 miles
10	Santa Clara Road (Atascadero)	Approved	2003	Road surface overlay
11	Wilhelmina Road (Santa Margarita)	Approved	2003	Road surface overlay
12	Stenner Creek Road (San Luis Obispo)	Approved	2002–2007	Bridge replacement
13	Foothill Road (San Luis Obispo)	Approved	2007–2012	Widening by This Old House
14	Santa Fe Road (San Luis Obispo)	Approved	2007–2012	Realign northerly quarter mile
15	Buckley Road (San Luis Obispo)	Approved	Unknown	Widening from Santa Fe Road to 0.75 miles east
City of San Luis Obispo Projects				
16	Cal Poly Faculty Housing H-8/H-9	Approved	2004–2005	Construction of additional faculty housing
17	Marketplace (Dalidio)	In process	Unknown	Commercial development
18	Prado Rd/Hwy 101 Interchange	Approved	2005	Freeway interchange improvement
19	Prado Road Extension	In process	Unknown	Extension of Prado Road to Highway 227
20	Margarita Specific Plan	In process	Unknown	Public improvements/trunk facilities for new development
21	Damon/Garcia Sports Fields	Approved	2003	Construction of a sports field adjacent to Prado Road
22	City of SLO Water Reuse project	Approved	2003	Distribution system construction
23	Tank Farm Gravity Sewer and Lift Station	Approved	2004	System improvements with reconstruction of new sewer lines and lift station.
24	Bob Jones Bike Trail	Approved	2004	Construction of bike trail (Prado Road to Los Osos Valley Road)
City of El Paseo de Robles Projects				
25	13th Street Bridge Widening	Approved	2003–2004	Widening of 13th Street bridge and portions of North and South River Roads and Union Road. Installation of new water and sewer lines.
26	Tract 2422	Pending	Unknown	Private Residential Development. Extent unknown pending receipt of application.
27	Templeton Sewer Project	Approved	2003	Increase size of existing sewer line in River Road from Charolais to Serenade Drive.
Monterey County Projects				
28	Salinas Valley Water Project (Lake Nacimiento and Monterey County)	Approved	2003–2004	Improvements to Lake Nacimiento dam and re-operation of reservoir to mitigate sea water intrusion in the lower Salinas Valley.

4.2 Monterey County Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP)

The most substantial cumulative development project in the vicinity of the NWP, and the project most likely to result in significant cumulative impacts with the NWP, is the Monterey County Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP). MCWRA is the public agency that has responsibility to manage and ensure preservation of water resources in the Salinas Valley. As such, MCWRA has developed the proposed SVWP with the purpose to meet the following objectives:

- stopping the sea water intrusion into the basin;
- providing adequate water supplies to meet current and future (year 2030) needs; and
- improving the hydrologic balance of the groundwater basin in the Salinas Valley (Basin).

The proposed SVWP includes several actions summarized below:

- Modification of the Nacimiento spillway – The existing spillway would be modified by replacing a section with an inflatable rubber dam or radial gates that are capable of passing the probable maximum flood event. This modification will increase the spillway capacity and allow the reservoir to store a higher volume of water throughout the wet season. The surface elevation would not change.
- Reoperation of Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs – Because Lake Nacimiento can store more water through the wet season, it can be reoperated to release less water in the wet season and release it during the irrigation season. San Antonio Reservoir would also be reoperated to store more water in the wet season and release it during the irrigation season. This store/release scenario would allow for a greater level of groundwater recharge and diversion of water at the lower Salinas River for direct delivery. Water will be in the Salinas River year round, except during droughts.
- Surface Diversion/Impoundment – A seasonal diversion structure would be constructed on the northern reach of the Salinas River to divert an average of 9,700 afy for irrigation during April through October. The diversion structure would be equipped with pneumatically operated gates. Outside the diversion season, the gates would be lowered to lay flat on a concrete sill on the river bed. During the diversion season, the gates would be raised to create an impoundment from which water would be diverted. The gates would be comprised of multiple panels that may be raised and lowered independently to facilitate fish passage and control the water level in the impoundment. The maximum depth of the impoundment would be 9 feet at the diversion structure. The impoundment would extend approximately 4.5 miles upstream. The diversion structure would also include a fishway and fish screens to provide for fish passage when the dam is raised. A pump station with a capacity of 85 cfs would discharge the diverted water into the existing Castorville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP) pipeline and co-mingle with water from the Monterey County Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. If the amount of diverted water needs to be increased in the future, an expanded delivery and distribution system would be required.
- Delivery – The diversion structure would be constructed near the current point where the CSIP pipeline crosses the Salinas River. The CSIP pipeline delivers recycled water to agricultural users in the CSIP service area. The pipeline has sufficient capacity to deliver

project water to the CSIP area also. Hydrologic modeling shows that the project may not halt seawater intrusion in the long-term future (year 2030). If this were to occur, additional distribution capacity will be created in a new pipeline and water would be delivered outside the CSIP area to ensure project objectives are met and seawater intrusion is halted. The proposed surface diversion facility would divert up to 25,000 acre feet of water from the Salinas River at Salachi Ranch Road into the exiting CSIP distribution pipeline for delivery to agricultural users for irrigation. The diverted water would serve as an alternate groundwater supply to offset groundwater pumping. San Antonio Reservoir and Lake Nacimiento would be reoperated to release water primarily during the late-spring and summer irrigation season. Increased spring and summer flows would be available for diversion to agricultural users via the surface diversion facility. Increased flows would also provide increased recharge through the river bed to the groundwater aquifer.

- Pumping Limitations – In areas where project water is delivered, groundwater pumping would be limited to peaking capacity and deliveries during drought.

The proposed SVWP is expected to halt seawater intrusion. This would be a substantial beneficial impact to groundwater quality within the MCWRA jurisdiction. The schedule for releasing water from reoperated Lake Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoir would result in additional variation in surface elevations compared with existing operations.